

TRIBUTE TO MARY MAUGHAN

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, as I leave the Senate, I want to recognize one staffer in particular, Ms. Mary Maughan. Mary has served for 18 years on my Utah staff. Mary also worked with me on my first campaign for the Senate in 1992. She was the second I person hired on that campaign and has been a loyal and trusted advisor ever since.

Mary brought to my office vast experience, which provided a solid foundation for her service on my staff during my time in the Senate. She was raised in a military family as an Air Force "brat" and consequently built a deep understanding of military culture and operations. Later, as a Foreign Service officer with the Department of State, she spent 18 months in Vietnam during the war and expanded her personal experience and expertise while working in civilian and military-support offices at both provincial and regional levels. She added to her resume with further experience in Washington, where she focused on Middle Eastern issues as the Iraqi desk officer at the Department of State. She also did temporary duty working on Israeli affairs at the Department of Commerce. Embassy duty in Europe and professional and personal travel in significant and volatile areas of the world helped expand her international credentials.

Mary put these credentials to work as part of my Senate staff. She specializes in military and veterans affairs, Department of State and other international issues, as well as homeland security, Department of Justice, and other related programs. Her expertise and fine performance eventually helped her to advance to the position of senior adviser.

I thank Mary for her tireless dedication to the people of Utah and her loyalty and honorable service as a member of my staff for almost two decades. It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that I congratulate her on her retirement. I look forward to continuing our association in the years to come.

IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to congratulate the students from Iowa City West High School who will participate in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national finals in Washington, DC. More than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People program run by the Center for Civic Education, with the help of Federal funding, provides an outstanding curriculum that promotes civic competence and responsibility among elementary and secondary students.

I am proud to announce that the students from Iowa City West High School, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won the State competition and thus were given the distinction of representing Iowa in the national finals.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. In the end, students take away a solid understanding of the origin of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of our founding documents and ideals. In short, it produces better citizens.

I would like to personally recognize the Iowa City West students who are on the team that will represent Iowa in the national finals, Guo Chen, Jinny Guo, Yelena Shabelnik, John Alatalo, Cole Anderson, Bennett Mueller, Rebecca Wen, Elizabeth Wang, Evan Davis, Eleanor Marshall, Margaret Shultz, Katherine Yang, Trevor Clinkenbeard, Mark Mellecker, Brad Ockenfels, Ray Ockenfels, Nik Hlebotwitsch, Sara McAndrew, Jessica Sheldon, Asya Bergal, Joe Henderson, Hilah Kohen, Jacob Larson, Elizabeth Vandenberg, and teacher Gary Neuzil.

I wish these students the best of luck at the We the People national finals and applaud their outstanding achievement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COLORADO KIDS' MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

• Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, today I wish to honor two young heroes from Colorado, who will receive the organization 9-1-1 for Kids' Medal of Honor this week. The medal is bestowed on a young person who distinguishes himself or herself by calling 9-1-1 in an emergency and helps save someone's life or report a crime. An award is also presented to the dispatcher who processed the call and provided the appropriate emergency response.

Earlier this year, Nathan Averhoff, a third grader at Leroy Drive Elementary School in Northglenn, and Abigail Vicioso, a third grader at Skyview Elementary School in Thornton, both found themselves in a difficult situation involving one of their parents.

Nathan, who is 9 years old, called the Thornton Communication Center on April 23 when his mom began having a seizure. Dispatcher Edward Coddington answered Nathan's call and stayed on the phone with him for 6 minutes as Nathan provided updates on his mom's condition. Nathan remained calm and said his dad had told him what to do in

case of a medical emergency. Once the seizure began to subside, Nathan held his mom's head to avoid further injury. His quick actions meant that there was no delay in seeking medical attention for his mom.

On September 8, 9-year-old Abby called 9-1-1 on her cell phone when she found her mother on the bathroom floor, dizzy, weak and vomiting. Dispatcher Karen Salazar of the city of Thornton 9-1-1 Dispatch Center answered her call. Although Abby was scared and worried about her mom, she answered Karen's questions clearly and calmly, enabling Karen to get the proper emergency assistance to Abby's mom, who was eventually transported to a local hospital.

Both of these kids knew exactly what to do. They didn't panic, and they made sure their moms got the care they needed. They and the dispatchers who helped them serve as a great example of how important it is for kids to know what to do when trouble arises.

The organization 9-1-1 for Kids has made it its mission to ensure that kids of all ages understand the importance and proper use of 9-1-1. It does so by raising awareness through conferences, media outreach, training activities, school events, and by highlighting the stories of kids like Nathan and Abby.

I join all Coloradans in offering our gratitude to dispatchers Edward Coddington and Karen Salazar for their service to their communities and congratulate Nathan and Abby for this award as well as their bravery and calm in the face of an emergency. ●

TRIBUTE TO MCKENZIE HALEY

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize McKenzie Haley, Miss Rodeo America 2011. McKenzie, a native of my own home State of South Dakota, was crowned Miss Rodeo America on December 4, 2010, at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV. McKenzie holds a long history of rodeo titles including Junior Miss Rodeo South Dakota 2004, South Dakota High School Rodeo Queen 2005-2006, Miss Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo 2009, before being crowned Miss Rodeo South Dakota in July of 2009.

McKenzie will spend the next year attending more than 100 rodeos across the United States promoting and serving as a spokesperson for the sport of rodeo. McKenzie is a true ambassador and shining example of South Dakota spirit and values. I wish her all the best and congratulate her on her accomplishments as she embarks on her exciting journey as Miss Rodeo America 2011. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.